

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the foregoing amendment, applicant has corrected claims 7 and 11 to define the "preburner section" and delete the term "in", respectively.

The rejection of claims 8 and 9 as anticipated by Beebe U.S. patent No. 4,845,952 is respectfully traversed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 8 and 9 have been amended to more clearly define over the Beebe reference. With respect to claim 8, the flow controller is defined between the preburner section and the main fuel injector. The catalyst section is also defined as lying downstream of the preburner section and the main fuel injector. Beebe does not disclose a flow controller between the preburner section and the main fuel injector section 24. Further, the flow controller is more particularly defined as having a plurality of annular elements defining a plurality of discrete annular flow through areas to preferentially radially distribute the flow. The Examiner corresponds the claimed flow controller with the main fuel injector 24 of Beebe. The main fuel injector of Beebe comprises a plurality of venturi sections with flow openings in communication with a fuel manifold 42. Apart from the fact that the main fuel injector 24 of Beebe is not a flow controller between a main fuel injector and a preburner section, the venturi sections of Beebe are not constituted by annular elements nor does any structure in Beebe respond to the annular elements defining discrete annular flow through areas. Further nothing in Beebe preferentially radially distributes the flow. That is, the venturi sections of the main fuel injector 24 of Beebe are not annular areas which preferentially radially distribute the flow.

With respect to dependent claim 9, the annular flow areas are further defined as radially spaced from one another with each providing substantially the same mass flow as one another. While the Examiner may be correct in stating that the venturis of Beebe, since they are identical,

DINU
Appl. No. 10/648,203
April 28, 2005

may provide the same mass flow, it is clear that the various circular arrays of venturis as seen in Figure 2 of Beebe cannot provide the same mass flow as other radially spaced arrays thereof.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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